

The Role of External Auditing in Reducing Creative Accounting Practices

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Abstract— Concerning the auditor's independence, the ongoing debate in the literature is about how to balance the obligations and requirements faced by the auditor in the course of his audit duties with the related provision in place that authorizes additional non-audit services to be provided to the audited clients. Facing the audit profession today, ethical violations that have reduced the audit results in the aftermath of recent financial scandals, where it has already been proven that the world's leading auditing firms were involved in the financial corruption scandals, are the primary challenges auditors will face. The current study aimed to examine external auditing as a determining factor in influencing creative cost accounting. For this reason, the researchers used three different dimensions of external auditing to enable the study to measure creative cost accounting, first type of external auditing was general standard, second type of external auditing was fieldwork standard, third type of external auditing was reporting standard. The study consists of three independent variables (general standard, fieldwork standard, and reporting standard) and creative cost accounting as dependent variable. The present research applied quantitative research method via adapting questionnaire from academic sources. A random sampling technique was used, where all participants had equal chances of being selected for the sample. The researchers distributed 130 questionnaires, only 125 questionnaires were received and from 125 questionnaires only 117 questionnaires were completed properly. The findings showed that general standard has significant positive influence on creative cost accounting at 5% level. The results show that fieldwork standard has significant positive influence on creative cost accounting at 5% level. The results show that reporting standard has significant positive influence on creative cost accounting at 5% level. Moreover, all beta value is higher than .001. All models have very high adjusted R² (.711, .671, .736, .644, and .723 respectively) indicating the ability of the models explaining the variation of creative cost accounting due to variation of independent variables is very high. The F-value shows that the explanatory variables are jointly statistically significant in the model and the Durbin-Watson (DW) statistics reveals that there is autocorrelation in the models.

Keywords— *Auditing, External Auditing, Fieldwork, Reporting Auditing, General Standard of Auditing.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Market trust and investors' trust in Capital Markets have, as a result of the multiple scandals that have happened over the past two decades, been weakened. This idea, as it pertains to the traditional model, applies to non-listed firms. In this model, the statutory committee has three to five genuine members, as well as two standby members. In order to be successful, they must uphold their obligations with professionalism and the level of care required for the specific nature of their job. Focusing on the real firm size and structure, they must get the work done. When a corporation is required to have both a majority of the statutory board and external auditors (Sorguli, et al. 2021), the corporation's by-laws must stipulate that at least one must be chosen from the minority as well as one must be elected from the majority. There is increasing acknowledgement in the public audit profession that the increased use of big data, as well as the introduction of advanced analytics by audit clients, has created new opportunities and problems (Gardi, 2021). It is generally accepted that a paper is significant if it describes one component of analytics, which usually belongs in one phase of the external audit model as proposed by Cushing and Loebbecke (1986), and this article discusses internal auditing and auditing on the auditing (Hamza, et al. 2021). In the public business audit scenario, analytics might be a key focus of the report, or it might be a secondary focus, or it may be part of another process or aim. The use of analytics is not a key emphasis for papers in which case only papers in which analytics are critical to the method are chosen (Ahmed, et al. 2021).

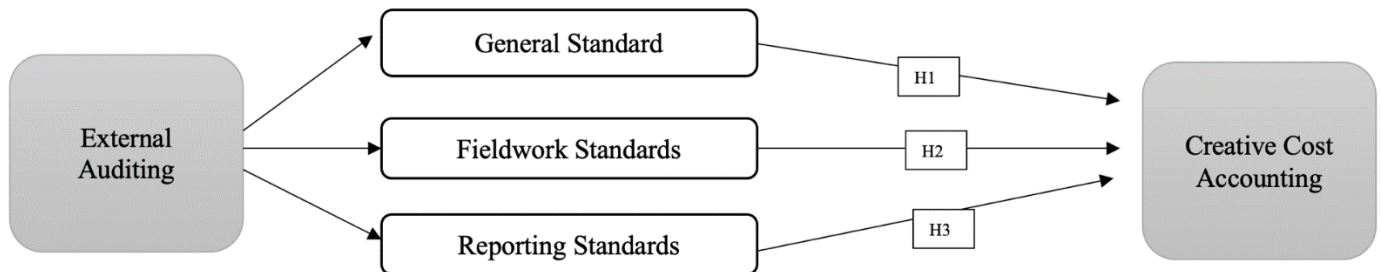
A detailed study on which specific topics emphasize in external audit practices can be found in this literature, which includes reports on Financial Statement Fraud (Ismael, et al. 2021), Going Concern Opinion (Gardi, 2021), and Fair Value Measurement (Ismael, et al. 2021). To safeguard transactions, policies to keep transaction data up to date are critical. If controls are not put in place, a business may not be able to offer necessary and suitable evidence for cost-efficient audits (Ismael, et al. 2021). Historically, the health system had a more influential role in healing due to the clinical decisions of attending physicians, who impose the largest demands on the health system. Each patient is allotted a specific amount of resources, based on how much their prognosis has improved. The healing process is substantially affected by such paramedical services as nursing and other nursing services. It is clinical and nursing judgments that activate the administrative and financial systems (Sorguli & Al-Kake, 2020). There are many

external constraints that the health care provider faces, who is accountable for making clinical judgments and for the implications of these decisions. As a result, he may overutilize (or undertreat) services, especially if his value system requires him to do so. Due to the critical role that good records management plays in the auditing and risk management processes in both the public and commercial sectors, this is not something to be taken lightly (Damit, et al. 2019).

The crucially important feature of continuous auditing is that it lowers the lag between operations management and providing assurance. For many years prior, information which was significantly more specific and time-sensitive than the auditor, who is only introduced in the audit results at the end of the year, was easily accessible to management. Audit businesses do the vast majority of their billing by the number of hours worked, and they are not particularly motivated to develop an audit model that is less labor-intensive and more technology-intensive. External auditing as a technique of assessing the quality of financial statements concerns finding a balance between the interests of current and potential information consumers, who will determine the financial statements of a certain organization (Ali, et al. 2021). Thus, quality in external auditing is a notion. The quality of the parties conducting the audit reports increases the certainty of those being audited, and also illustrates the necessity for external auditing. External auditing has recently been brought to the attention of various corporations, which is a testament to its value. Government institutions in both established and emerging economies are increasing concerned with governance reform, with academics and policy makers becoming equally influential actors in that arena. This article analyzes the effect of the audit committee on the quality of the external auditing, as well as the effectiveness of the board of supervisors. As a result of the recently completed research, it can be deduced that by surveying, the developed hypothesis, which states that the audit committee, as a subcommittee of the supervisory board, has a direct impact on both external auditing efficiency, and the supervisory board, is currently being tested. Efficiency of external auditing, and the supervisory board impact on that, is examined before taking into account the audit committee's role. Additionally, induction and deduction methods, as well as analysis and synthesis methods, are used to examine the supervisory board's role and the audit committee's impact on corporate governance. Additionally, other aspects of external auditing, including theoretical relevance and

methodological frameworks, are also being investigated (Hameed & Anwar, 2018).

Research model



Research Hypotheses:

H1: General standard as an external auditing dimension has positive and significant impact on reducing manipulation in creative cost accounting practices.

H2: Fieldwork standard as an external auditing dimension has positive and significant impact on reducing manipulation in creative cost accounting practices.

H3: Reporting standard as an external auditing dimension has positive and significant impact on reducing manipulation in creative cost accounting practices.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

External auditing

To bring this to life, take the case used in the authors' personal experience in which a telecommunications business was obliged to lay off a huge number of its managers, many of whom are responsible for authorization of transactions. In order to satisfy segregation of duty controls, these responsibilities are routinely assigned to various managers, but the redundancies caused these responsibilities to be distributed among numerous managers, so the absence of designated signees led to the need for work-arounds without adequate documentation. To help make up for the gap, the internal auditors had to work with limited controls for some time (Sabir, et al. 2021). Process mining may have been utilized in this circumstance to establish what the new arrangements were following the layoffs by finding out how transactions are actually now being authorized and processed (Sorguli, et al. 2020). There is also the possibility that this might have been used in advance of the event to establish which managers were most crucial in the permission procedure and to properly prioritize the redundancy. The goal in both ex ante and ex

post is to find out how authorizations are being actually executed against only depending on the theoretical External auditing process which has often deviated from since inception in order to take into account new procedures, staff, and suppliers (Abdullah, et al. 2017).

It is evident from the analysis of these four studies that audit risk, internal control, and proof are all considered key components of an auditing class. Although these three themes were among the top five in some surveys, they were not included in other surveys and were instead in the rankings of issues including widely accepted auditing standards, auditors' professional duty, and legal liability. While there have been no significant findings made about the criticality of auditing subjects in earlier research, one flaw in this area of study is that the concepts behind audit topics were not well defined (Ali, et al. 2021). With such different terminologies being used to talk about the subjects, it is hard to make a comparison between past research to understand how and why changes and trends in auditing education have taken place. However, in order to get to that point, it will require more than just technology implementation. One of the problems with this is that audits would be required to examine the company's procedures to find out if they are vulnerable to process mapping and reengineering. To know how to give confidence in the business world today, one must know about the constant changes that organizations make to how they do their business. What is currently the most crucial discovery emerging from the last two decades is the unveiling of how a corporation actually functions (Aziz, et al. 2021). The theoretical work on agency and moral hazard is largely concerned with the use of information (Ali & Anwar, 2021). However, information is not produced by mechanical processes; it is produced by rational economic actors operating in an external reporting context. In the audit, the

auditor has a motive to disclose the truth (fairness of the financial statements). But, the success of the auditors in securing an audit opinion is also the goals of the principal and the agent, both of which require careful consideration. Several different models for performance evaluation systems are investigated by (Saleh et al. 2021) in the accounting environment. The decision theory models of auditing given by (Ali, et al. 2021) are demonstrated in the audit. Despite these models considering an input from the manager, which can impact the system states, these models are not designed to accommodate this manager influence. Our goal in this research is to include auditing difficulties in our overall evaluation of the moral hazard dilemma, specifically in regard to the incentive schedule for the manager from the principal's point of view (Abdullah & Anwar, 2021).

To fulfill this role, the external auditor needs to understand what internal controls are relevant to the audit and have an objective in mind in order to decide on audit techniques that are appropriate in these circumstances. This is crucial to understand because external auditors do not have the goal of giving their own opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal controls. In other words, the goal of the internal auditor is to evaluate the effectiveness of the internal controls, while external auditors will look to the work of internal auditors when assessing controls. The close relationship between internal and external auditing is expected to enable the internal audit enhance its job and improve the work of external auditors, reduce duplication, and reach maximum risk coverage. Additionally, it will aid the governing body in obtaining a thorough understanding of the controls and associated risks of the organization (Anwar, 2017). Instead of researching cross-sectional disparities in the cost of capital, we use restatements of accounting information to demonstrate a connection between accounting information and the cost of capital. In addition to internal pressure, external factors are increasing that will encourage or force companies to record and disclose various forms of environmental expenses. The cost of interest is all internal to the company; that is, all substantial expenses to the decision of how much of the firm's capital resources ought to be devoted to certain environmental projects. The audit serves as an attestation to the correctness of financial statements or circumstances, as the major objective of a review is to evaluate and provide an opinion on the result and condition of affairs of a company, as much as its financial operations and records may reveal. This statement of opinion confirms the reliability of the attached financial statement, allowing the user to take that information at face value (the financial statement). Since an independent expert has vouched for its

veracity, the user is allowed to do so (Anwar & Qadir, 2017).

Creative cost accounting

CCA is a method of manipulation of accounting statistics carried out by accountants, who utilize their knowledge of accounting regulations to alter the figures provided in a business's financial reports. CCA is made up of accepted accounting methods that obey regulations and rules, but go against the rules and regulations that they are trying to accomplish. The above statement explains how CCA exploits loopholes in accounting standards to inaccurately depict the company's financial situation (Anwar & Climis, 2017). At the point where three approaches to modern management come together, we have seen a whole new kind of theory and practice emerge in the area of management accounting, planning, and economic analysis. Controlling system is a synthesis of elements of accounting, analysis, monitoring, planning, and implementation. It incorporates all the elements of accounting, analysis, monitoring, and planning, along with implementation. This is done in order to enable the company to consistently create a diverse range of approaches in carrying out operational and strategic management of company goals and results. Though lacking ethics, data manipulation is an art of fraudulent arts, and it might be tough to audit destinations, both external and internal auditors, or even the auditing destination that is tied to the government, which might be tough to uncover because of that.

Used to as we are to seeing things in a certain way, most people see accounting as a social science that intersects with the surrounding society, and accountants as experts who apply the delegation theory, delegating management tasks to managers who act on behalf of shareholders and get a percentage of their companies' profits. This is the primary worry for these managers since they are more concerned with making as much money as possible to increase the value of their investments (Abdullah, 2015). This has helped pave the way for the introduction of new accounting systems that profit from the ability of accounting standards to easily be manipulated to identify revenues and profitability. There are various approaches which are known as creative accounting (Tassadaq & Malik, 2015). CCA is a euphemism for a type of accounting practice that might follow the letter of the rules of CCA, but that deviates from the spirit of those rules with questionable accounting ethics, specifically through unethical practices such as manipulating results in favor of the preparers or the firm that employed the accountant. The principles and concepts expounded in these books contain a great deal of complexity and the employment of unique ways of describing income, assets, or obligations, and a campaign to steer readers

towards the conclusions preferred by the writers. These phrases are also used to describe "innovative" or "aggressive" firms. One of the most prevalent synonyms is "cooking the books". When done creatively, legitimate accounting practices often comes with even larger-scale financial fraud, such as securities fraud. Lines between the two practices get blurred. Accounting techniques that promote creativity have been known since ancient times and are seen all throughout the world in a wide variety ways.

CCA is a strategy which is utilized to either develop or interpret accounting policies in a deceptive way with the purpose of misusing the accounting procedures and standards that are being established by the accounting authorities. This kind of practice is used in order to help the business avoid having to report the numbers in full. We can see this as exploiting the gaps in our accounting system and our audit system after the accounts have been finalized. CCC also goes under several other names, including "income smoothing," "earnings management," "earnings smoothing," and "financial and accounting." For conservative accounting systems, a tendency for 'income smoothing' (where assets are placed to offset a history of yearly losses) is sometimes accentuated because of the high amount of provisions that build. Another bias that occurs is called "big bath" accounting, which is the practice of a business with a loss in a particular year attempting to maximum the reported loss in that year so that it will seem as a smaller loss in the following years. It is critical to have understanding of financial concepts in the corporate world. While CCA is a type of accounting technique that is neither regarded unlawful nor outside the ordinary, it describes ways in which certain accounting techniques are used. Meant by creative accounting is the means of certain companies to the utilization of the gaps within the available methods and substitutions in order to improve the company's image before the beneficiaries even if that was on the account of reality. Both internal stakeholders and external stakeholders have an essential influence in the decisions that are made with respect to a company's financial statements. Assessing the performance of the company through financial reports is an objective measure

of the corporation's performance. The primary principle of innovative accounting is to uncover what are called loopholes in the law and accounting rules in order to show the firm in a more positive light. On the one hand, income smoothing could be a positive influence on trade business. On the other hand, when done in a beneficial way, income smoothing can aid trade business operations, albeit it should be employed to achieve the ultimate purpose of the company. Cross-boundary simplicity is powerful. In many cases, however, organizations harness such power by extending themselves beyond simple concepts, which leads to disastrous results. One thing is for certain: Creative accounting is almost always detrimental to a corporate accounting reporting.

III. METHODOLOGY

The current study aimed to examine external auditing as a determining factor in influencing creative cost accounting. For this reason, the researchers used three different dimensions of external auditing to enable the study to measure creative cost accounting, first type of external auditing was general standard, second type of external auditing was fieldwork standard, third type of external auditing was reporting standard. The study consists of three independent variables (general standard, fieldwork standard, and reporting standard) and creative cost accounting as dependent variable. The present research applied quantitative research method via adapting questionnaire from academic sources. The questionnaire was divided into two sections, the first section consisted of demographic questions; starting with respondent's age and respondents' gender. The second part of questionnaire consisted of 10 questions of general standard, 8 questions of fieldwork, 9 questions of reporting standard, and 10 questions of cost creative accounting. A random sampling technique was used, where all participants had equal chances of being selected for the sample. The researchers distributed 130 questionnaires, only 125 questionnaires were received and from 125 questionnaires only 117 questionnaires were completed properly.

IV. ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

Table 1: KMO and Bartlett Sphericity Test of Self-rating Items

No	Factors	N of items	Sample	KMO	Bartlett test	
					Chi-Square	Sig
1	General Standard	10	117	.802	3019.4	.000
2	Fieldwork Standard	8	117			
3	Reporting Standard	9	117			

4	Cost creative accounting	10	117			
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As we can see in table (1), the result of KMO is .802 which is higher than .001 this indicates that the sample size used for the current study was more than adequate. Furthermore, the result of Chi-Square is 3019.4 with the significant level .000.

Table 2: Reliability analysis

Reliability Statistics			
Factor	Sample	Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
General Standard	117	.739	10
Fieldwork Standard	117	.766	8
Reporting Standard	117	.791	9
General Standard	117	.772	10

As seen in table (2), the reliability analysis for 37 items used to measure the influence of external auditing (general standard, fieldwork standard, reporting standard) on reducing manipulation in creative cost accounting. The above 37 questions were distributed as follow; 10 items for general standard, 8 items for fieldwork standard, 9 items for reporting standard, and 10 items for cost creative accounting. The researchers applied reliability analysis to find out the reliability for each factor, the findings revealed as follow: as for general standard was found the Alpha to be .739 for 10 questions which indicated that all 10 questions

used to measure general standard were reliable for the current study, as for fieldwork standard was found the Alpha to be .766 for 8 questions which indicated that all 8 questions used to measure fieldwork standard were reliable for the current study, as for reporting standard was found the Alpha to be .791 for 9 questions which indicated that all 8 questions used to measure reporting standard were reliable for the current study, and as for cost creative accounting was found the Alpha to be .772 for 10 questions which indicated that all 8 questions used to measure cost creative accounting were reliable for the current study.

Table 2: Correlation Analysis

Correlations					
		General	Fieldwork	Reporting	Creative cost accounting
General standard	Pearson Correlation	1			
	Sig. (2-tailed)				
	N	117			
Fieldwork standard	Pearson Correlation	.551**	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.002			
	N	117	117		
Reporting standard	Pearson Correlation	.549**	.559**	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		
	N	117	117	117	
Creative cost accounting	Pearson Correlation	.692**	.703**	.671**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.001	.000	
	N	117	117	117	117
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).					

As it can be seen in table (2), the correlation analysis between external auditing (general standard, fieldwork standard, and reporting standard) and creative cost accounting. The finding revealed that the value of Pearson correlation ($r = .692^{**}$, $p < 0.01$), between general standard and creative cost accounting this indicated that there is positive and strong correlation between general standard and creative cost accounting, the value of Pearson

correlation ($r = .703^{**}$, $p < 0.01$), between fieldwork standard and creative cost accounting this indicated that there is positive and strong correlation between fieldwork standard and creative cost accounting, and the value of Pearson correlation ($r = .671^{**}$, $p < 0.01$), between reporting standard and creative cost accounting this indicated that there is positive and strong correlation between reporting standard and creative cost accounting.

Table 2. Multiple Regression Analysis

Models	Fixed Effects Model			
		Coefficient	T-ratio	P-value
Model 1 (H1) General Standard	Const	7.211	1.332	.0002
	Beta	6.92		.001
	Size		.7252	.003
	Adj R ²		.711	
	F-Value		19.585	
	Durbin-Watson		1.3959	
Model 2 (H2) Fieldwork Standard	Const	3.881	1.022	.0004
	Beta	.622		.0002
	Size		.3912	.000
	Adj R ²		.671	
	F-Value		16.552	
	Durbin-Watson		2.114	
Model 3 (H3) Reporting Standard	Const	4.552	1.114	.0002
	Beta	.721		.0001
	Size		.6331	.0002
	Adj R ²		.736	
	F-Value		12.522	
	Durbin-Watson		1.022	

* significant at 0.10, ** significant at 0.05 and *** significant at 0.01 level.

The results show that general standard has significant positive influence on creative cost accounting at 5% level. The results show that fieldwork standard has significant positive influence on creative cost accounting at 5% level. The results show that reporting standard has significant positive influence on creative cost accounting at 5% level. Moreover, all beta value is higher than .001. All models

have very high adjusted R² (.711, .671, .736, .644, and .723 respectively) indicating the ability of the models explaining the variation of creative cost accounting due to variation of independent variables is very high. The F-value shows that the explanatory variables are jointly statistically significant in the model and the Durbin-Watson (DW) statistics reveals that there is autocorrelation in the models.

V. CONCLUSION

The extra scrutiny on the use of external auditing as a measure for financial regulation has drawn significant attention of late. A gap has emerged among academics and policymakers that operate in both developed and emerging economies, who are concerned with boosting the efficacy of their governance mechanisms. This paper discusses continuous audit, shows how it has evolved, and describes the current state of the art. It also compares ongoing audit to traditional audit. The most significant change with regards to the conceptualization of audit is that the audit process has now become part of a different body called the Comprehensive Change and Assurance Program. Together with other forms of assurance, the new framework will enable third-party attestation and offer guidance on monitoring transactions, processes, and controls in the future. Auditing regulation has helped spur the development of CCAP while at the same time limiting the effectiveness of that method. Although these environmental constraints present a possibility for the species' expansion in other countries and settings, it appears to be in decline in its native range. While the impact of CCAP is yet nascent in Brazil, it shows considerable promise for the growth of CCAP. To be honest, it is fair to say that CCAP has far more to do with business practices than with anything related to technological advancements or methodology improvements. Though little progress has been made to date, there is a lot of potential to radically transform the way auditing is carried out as well as the function of the auditor in the operation of the firm and the relationship of the auditor with the firm. A radical alteration in the existing regulations and the legal framework governing auditing would entail sweeping changes in both the regulatory and judicial environments. Audit confidence level is connected to the ability of auditors and external audit firms to adhere to quality control criteria.

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